Red, White, and Blue Book

NATIONAL SURVEY
OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES

MISSOURI
Summer 2010

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from the INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN, POVERTY, AND HOMELESSNESS

Missouri had an estimated 1,031 homeless families on a single night in 2009, with providers serving more than three times their bed capacity over the course of the year.[1] This brief summarizes some of the state's public and private initiatives to assist these families.

State Taskforce on Homelessness

Taskforce: The Governor's Committee to End Homelessness (established by executive order in October 2003) developed the state plan to end homelessness, manages the Balance of State Continuum of Care, and advises elected officials on homeless policies.

Governor's Appointee: Sandy Wilson, Director of HMIS and Special Projects at the Missouri Association for Social Welfare, has chaired the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness since January 2010.

Iowa
Neb.
Kansas City
Kan.
Jefferson City
St. Louis
Ill.
MISSOURI
Okla.
Ark.
Ky.
Tenn.

0 25 50 Miles   ● City (COUNTY)
⊛ State Capital

Demographic Summary and Overview of Regional Organization

	Missouri	St. Louis	Kansas City[2]
Persons in homeless families[3]	3,136	464	609
Number of family shelter beds[4]	3,886	831	931
Persons in homeless families (per 10,000 population in families)[5]	15	40	24[6]
Percent of families in poverty[7]	15.56%	30.49%	17.60%[8]
10-Year plan date approved or implemented	2003	2005	No plan
10-Year plan target population	All	Chronic	No plan
Point-in-time count frequency	Biannually*	Biannually	Annually
Point-in-time count managing agency	Governor's Committee to End Homelessness*	City of St. Louis Department of Human Services	Homeless Services Coalition of Greater Kansas City
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) managing agency	Missouri Association for Social Welfare*	Municipal Information Systems	Mid-America Assistance Coalition
Main organizing agency or Continuum of Care (CoC) lead applicant	Missouri Housing Development Commission*	City of St. Louis Department of Human Services	Homeless Services Coalition of Greater Kansas City

*Corresponds to the Balance of State Continuum of Care, which comprises areas of Missouri that are not included in a regional or local CoC.

Collaboration and Data Collection in Missouri's Balance of State

Established in 1987, the Missouri Governor's Committee to End Homelessness (GCEH) organizes the Balance of State Continuum of Care, fosters collaboration, and increases understanding of homelessness through Homeless Awareness Day each November and Legislative Awareness Day in the spring. GCEH members include representatives from state government agencies and non-profit organizations. GCEH has met monthly since 1994 and also organizes quarterly regional meetings to provide technical assistance and encourage local stakeholders to collaborate on providing for the needs of homeless individuals and families.[9]

As part of its role overseeing the Balance of State CoC, GCEH conducts a point-in-time count every January along with an additional count in July. One-quarter (25%) of homeless Missourians reside in the Balance of State CoC, where

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homelessness increased by 45% between January and July 2009 to 2,466 individuals.[10] According to the July 2009 enumeration, two-thirds (66%) of homeless families reside in emergency shelter and 27% live in transitional housing, while the remaining 7% of families receive hotel/motel vouchers.[11]
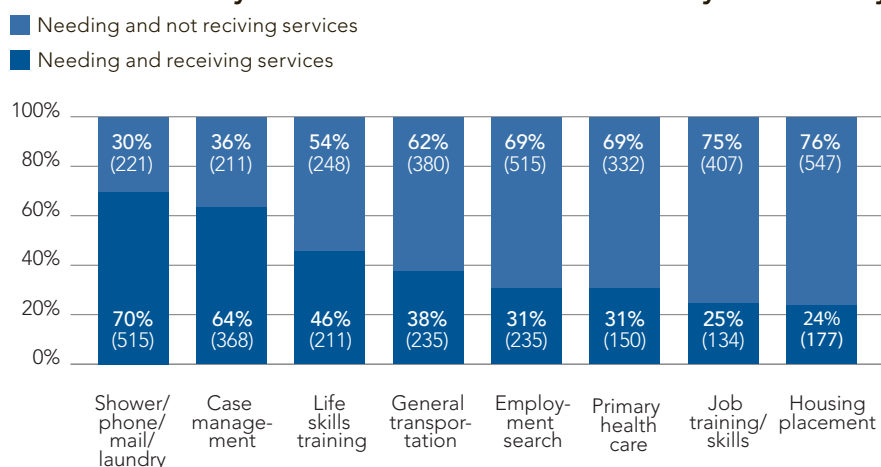
Sheltering Homeless Families in St. Louis

In the St. Louis area, families and individuals access shelter services and housing counseling by calling the Housing Resource Center hotline operated by Catholic Charities. Each year, the center receives approximately 30,000 shelter and service requests.[12] The center refers many families to the Gateway Community Shelter—Missouri's largest emergency shelter provider for single women and families. In 2009, Gateway provided 39,109 nights of shelter to 1,034 women and children and placed 288 women and children in transitional or permanent housing. Gateway also operates school supply and holiday campaigns for homeless children, provides math and science education to youth living in the shelter and the surrounding neighborhood, offers career development assistance to adult residents, and partners with organizations—including Washington University in St. Louis and Gracehill Healthcare Services—to provide health education and medical care to clients.[13]

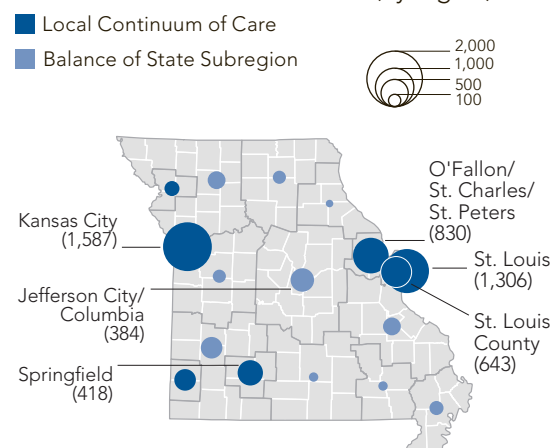## Service Gaps in Kansas City

To better plan for and meet gaps in homeless services, volunteers conducting Kansas City's January 2009 homeless survey asked 1,678 homeless persons if they received the supportive services they needed on the previous day. Respondents most often reported requiring employment search assistance (750), access to shower/phone/mail/laundry (736), or housing placement services (725). Three-quarters of homeless persons did not receive housing placement (76%) or job training/skills (75%), while more than two-thirds lacked primary health care (69%) or employment search services (69%). However, most homeless individuals and families received access to shower/phone/mail/laundry (70%) and case management (64%).[14]

Services Needed by Homeless Persons on the Previous Day in Kansas City

■ Needing and not reciving services
■ Needing and receiving services

Service	Needing and not receiving	Needing and receiving
Shower/phone/mail/laundry	30% (221)	70% (515)
Case management	36% (211)	64% (368)
Life skills training	54% (248)	46% (211)
General transportation	62% (380)	38% (235)
Employment search	69% (515)	31% (235)
Primary health care	69% (332)	31% (150)
Job training/skills	75% (407)	25% (134)
Housing placement	76% (547)	24% (177)

Source: Homeless Services Coalition of Greater Kansas City, *Point in Time Homeless Survey, January* 2009. Since the number of individuals requiring each service varies, the total number of homeless persons needing and receiving each service appears in parentheses.

Number of Homeless Persons (by region)

■ Local Continuum of Care
■ Balance of State Subregion

2,000
1,000
500
100

Kansas City (1,587)
Jefferson City/ Columbia (384)
Springfield (418)
O'Fallon/ St. Charles/ St. Peters (830)
St. Louis (1,306)
St. Louis County (643)

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD's 2009 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Homeless Populations and Sub-populations*; Missouri Governor's Committee to End Homelessness, *Point-in-Time Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless Count,* January 2009. Separate data are not available for families.

Endnotes

[1] U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD's 2009 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Homeless Populations and Subpopulations;* U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *AHAR Exchange Public Reports: 2009 Comprehensive Report of Sheltered Homeless Persons.*

[2] Statistics for Kansas City include the cities of Independence, Lee's Summit, and Blue Springs and Jackson County.

[3] U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2009 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations.*

[4] U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD's 2009 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs Housing Inventory Chart Report.*

[5] U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2009 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations;* U.S. Census Bureau, *2006–2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates.*

[6] Data do not include areas in Jackson County outside of Kansas City, Independence, Lee's Summit, and Blue Springs.

[7] U.S. Census Bureau, *2006–2008 American Community Survey.*

[8] Data do not include areas in Jackson County outside of Kansas City, Independence, Lee's Summit, and Blue Springs.

[9] Missouri Governor's Committee to End Homelessness, *2009 Annual Report;* Missouri Housing Development Commission, interview with ICP, May 18, 2010.

[10] All CoCs are required to conduct point-in-time counts in January, while some localities including the Balance of State CoC, carry out additional count in July; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2009 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations;* Missouri Governor's Committee to End Homelessness, *Point-in-Time Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless Count,* January and July 2009.

[11] Missouri Governor's Committee to End Homelessness, *Balance of State Sheltered Point-in-Time Count,* July 29, 2009.

[12] Catholic Charities Archdiocese of St. Louis, "Catholic Charities Housing Resource Center," http://www.ccstl.org/services/family-and-community/150-catholic-charities-housing-resource-center.html

[13] Gateway Homeless Services, http://www.gatewayhomeless.org

[14] Homeless Services Coalition of Greater Kansas City, *Point in Time Homeless Survey,* January 2009.

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